

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as shown below in the complete listing of claims.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The w~~Washing appliance according to claim ~~1~~15, wherein the inclined surface consists of a defined area ~~(2)~~ limited by guide rails ~~edges (4)~~ and an inlet system ~~a drain (5)~~ to ~~a the~~ at least one measuring instrument ~~(6)~~.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Washing~~The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the defined area ~~(2a)~~ is located on the inside of ~~a the tub~~tank (2) of the washing machine.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim ~~1~~15, wherein more than one inclined surface ~~(2a)~~ are used, arranged at different angles.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim 4, further comprising another measuring instrument wherein in which the signals from the measuring instruments (6) corresponding to different surfaces at different angles and are used for calibration adjustment or for internal reference of the measuring system measuring instruments.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the determination of the amount of a draining film of washing liquor is performed over a defined time period in the at least one measuring instrument (6), this latter the at least one measuring instrument comprising a storage vessel, which can be emptied in defined time intervals and is fed by the draining wash liquid.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the determination of the amount of ~~the a~~ draining film is performed over a defined time period by an optical fill level gauge, the at least one measuring instrument (6) containing a

storage vessel (8) which can be emptied in defined time intervals and is fed by the draining wash liquid.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the lower end of the drain surface (2a) is arranged in such a manner that the draining liquid leaves it in the form of drops and a measured quantity is determined from the number of the drops per time unit and their size.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the end of the drain surface (2a) is designed in such a manner that ~~the a~~draining liquid film gathers to a continuous fluid stream (W), and the conductivity of this stream is determined by a suitable measuring instrument (9).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim 9, wherein ~~the a discharge bottom portion (7) from the drain surface (2a)~~ serves as the first electrode and a ~~receptacle collection vessel (8)~~ serves as the second electrode and that a parameter based on a geometry the diameter of the water stream (W), flowing from the discharge to the receptacle, is determined by a conductivity measurement.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claims 2 and or 10, wherein a capacitive sensor is used for measuring the drain ~~behaviour~~behavior, the electrodes of the capacitive sensor being positioned outside the ~~tub~~tank.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein a capacitive sensor is used for measuring the drain ~~behaviour~~behavior, the electrodes of the capacitive sensor being positioned at the lower edge of the drain surface, in ~~a feed canal for the measuring instrument the drain,~~ or in a collecting vessel in the at least one measuring instrument itself.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing~~Washing machine according to claim 12, wherein the kind of the electrodes is designed in such a manner that a conductive measurement can be performed too.

14. (Canceled).

15. (New) A washing appliance comprising:  
a tank for loading washing liquor and items to be washed;  
a drum rotatably mounted within the tank;  
a controller carrying out a predetermined washing program;  
an inclined drain surface provided on the tank and collecting a portion of the washing liquor, and  
at least one measuring instrument assessing properties of such washing liquor collected on the inclined drain surface on the basis of the drainage behavior thereof.

16. (New) A method for controlling the program of a washing appliance, such appliance comprising a tank for loading washing liquor and items to be washed, the method comprising:  
collecting a portion of the washing liquor on an inclined drain surface; and  
assessing properties of such washing liquor collected on the inclined drain surface on the basis of the drainage behavior thereof.